Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer program product for providing an auditable trail of product transfers, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code for computing, for each transfer of a particular product, a globally-unique identifier ~~associated with~~ for the transfer[[;]] and a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer;

~~computer-readable program code for computing a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer;~~

computer-readable program code for recording, for each of the transfers, the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of the values in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product;

computer-readable program code for recording an audit record for each of the ~~transfer~~ transfers in an audit repository, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers comprises the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the one or more values describing the transfer; and

computer-readable program code for tracing transfers of the particular product using each of the audit records that pertains to the particular product.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 23, wherein

each audit record that pertains to the particular product further comprises a second globally-unique identifier which ~~is associated with~~ was computed for a ~~next-previous~~ most-recent previous transfer of the particular product, and wherein the computer-readable program code for tracing further comprises iteratively using the second globally-unique identifier, when processing the audit record, to locate the audit record which records the ~~next-previous~~ most-recent previous transfer.

Claims 25 - 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method for providing an auditable trail of product transfers, comprising steps of:

computing, for each transfer of a particular product, a globally-unique identifier ~~associated with~~ for the transfer[[;]] and a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer;

~~computing a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer;~~

recording, for each of the transfers, the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of the values in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product;

recording an audit record for each of the ~~transfer~~ transfers in an audit repository, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers comprises the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the one or more values describing the transfer; and

tracing transfers of the particular product using each of the audit records that pertains to the particular product.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 30, wherein each audit record that pertains to the particular product further comprises a second globally-unique identifier which ~~is associated with~~ was computed for ~~a next-previous~~ most-recent previous transfer of the particular product, and wherein the tracing step further comprises iteratively using the second globally-unique identifier, when processing the audit record, to locate the audit record which records the ~~next-previous~~ most-recent previous transfer.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A system for providing an auditable trail of product transfers, comprising:

means for computing, for each transfer of a particular product, a globally-unique identifier ~~associated with~~ for the transfer[[;]] and a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer;

~~means for computing a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer;~~

means for recording, for each of the transfers, the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of the values in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product;

means for recording an audit record for each of the ~~transfer~~ transfers in an audit repository, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers comprises the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the one or more values describing the transfer; and

means for tracing transfers of the particular product using each of the audit records that

pertains to the particular product.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 32, wherein each audit record that pertains to the particular product further comprises a second globally-unique identifier which ~~is associated with~~ was computed for a ~~next-previous~~ most-recent previous transfer of the particular product, and wherein the means for tracing further comprises iteratively using the second globally-unique identifier, when processing the audit record, to locate the audit record which records the ~~next-previous~~ most-recent previous transfer.

Claim 34 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 23, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers further comprises an additional globally-unique identifier that was computed for a most-recent previous transfer of the particular product.

Claim 35 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 23, wherein the product-integral ownership repository comprises a memory of a radio frequency identification device.

Claim 36 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 23, wherein the product-integral ownership repository comprises a memory of a machine-readable identification device.

Claim 37 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 23, wherein the globally-unique identifier computed for each transfer is usable as an index for retrieving the audit record for that transfer from the audit repository.

Claim 38 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 23, wherein:

the computer-readable program code for recording records the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the zero or more of the values for each of the transfers in a corresponding ownership transfer record in the product-integral ownership repository; and

the ownership transfer record is access-protected using control fields to dictate which of the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the zero or more of the values are updateable and which are not.

Claim 39 (new): The method according to Claim 30, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers further comprises an additional globally-unique identifier that was computed for a most-recent previous transfer of the particular product.

Claim 40 (new): The method according to Claim 30, wherein the product-integral ownership repository comprises a memory of a radio frequency identification device.

Claim 41 (new): The method according to Claim 30, wherein the product-integral ownership repository comprises a memory of a machine-readable identification device.

Claim 42 (new): The method according to Claim 30, wherein the globally-unique identifier computed for each transfer is usable as an index for retrieving the audit record for that transfer from the audit repository.

Claim 43 (new): The method according to Claim 30, wherein:

the recording step records the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the zero or more of the values for each of the transfers in a corresponding ownership transfer record in the product-integral ownership repository; and

the ownership transfer record is access-protected using control fields to dictate which of the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the zero or more of the values are updateable and which are not.

Claim 44 (new): The system according to Claim 32, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers further comprises an additional globally-unique identifier that was computed for a most-recent previous transfer of the particular product.

Claim 45 (new): The system according to Claim 32, wherein the product-integral ownership repository comprises a memory of a radio frequency identification device.

Claim 46 (new): The system according to Claim 32, wherein the product-integral ownership repository comprises a memory of a machine-readable identification device.

Claim 47 (new): The system according to Claim 32, wherein the globally-unique identifier computed for each transfer is usable as an index for retrieving the audit record for that transfer from the audit repository.